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whether published in the morning or in the afternoon. As a medium for unobjectionable advertisements it there-

fore stands unequaled and unapproachable.

The regular permanent family

circulation of The Evening Star in Washington is more than double that of any other paper,

DECREE MODIFIED

Only Unsatisfactory Fruit to Be Barred From Germany.

ADVICES FROM AMBASSADOR WHITE

Prompt Effect of His Remonstrances.

THE PERNICIOUS SCALE

The State Department was notified by Ambassador White at Berlin today of the modification of the original decree issued by the Prussian minister of finance, Dr. Miquel, prohibiting the importation of American fruit. According to the ambassador's cablegram, the decree does not, as he advised yesterday, apply to dried fruits, while fresh fruit will be admitted to entry if an examination shows its condition to be satisfactory.

If this modification has been made in the decree it would appear that the prompt representations made by the United States have received an equally prompt consideration on the other side. It is certain that if the decree as originally promulgated had been applied to shipments of fruit in transit, as its terms indicated, the shippers would have had a right to claim indemnity from the Prussian government for the damages sustained by them, and it would have been regarded by the United States government as a matter of duty to sustain this demand for indemnity sustain this demand for indemnity.

Must Await Full Advices.

The State Department is now obliged to await the receipt of full advices as to the exact nature of the modified decree and watch its workings. It is hoped that the examinations of the fruit may not be made unduly severe, for it is believed that, as in the case of meat products in the early stages of the exclusion decrees, it will be possible to make these inspections so har-assing to importers of fruit that there will be no inducement to continue the trade. If such a disposition is shown it will be the duty of the State Department to lodge a firm protest, otherwise there is danger that the success of the German government in excluding this important fruit trade will have an effect upon the governments of other European nations, which, under agrarian influences, are seeking pretexts for cutting down American competition with their farmers.

with their farmers.

The bundesrath's action against the importation of live plants from America is due to a series of protests from shippers affected, especially those of Hamburg, on the lower Rhine, and at Emmerich. Its decision forbids the importation only where the fruit is affected by the aspidotus perniciosus, or San Jose plant bug.

Secretary Wilson has taken steps for the

niciosus, or San Jose plant bug.

Secretary Wilson has taken steps for the collection of all information obtainable in the Department of Agriculture bearing on the shipment of fresh fruit to the German empire. This is preliminary to any action which may be found necessary after full official information as to the scope of the decree of prohibition is obtained. In the absence of much information the Secretary manifests a disinclination to talk about manifests a disinclination to talk about the matter for publication. When full data is at hand he will probably direct an in-vestigation into the question of the ship-ment of fruit and the danger, if any, which exists of its being infected with pests that will do harm after they are fully developed.

The San Jose Scale. In connection with the current discussion of Prussia's action, some reference has been made to what is known as the San J(s), or pernicious scale, a pest said to have been imported into California from abroad. There is, it is said, perhaps no irsect capable of causing greater damage to fruit interests in the United States, or perhaps in the world, than this insect. Outside of the United States, the insect is known to occur in Australia, Chile and Ha-waii, and the inference is that it was introduced here from one of those countries.

The spread of the scale from the point of original infestation in the San Jose valley was somewhat rapid, its areas increasing in every direction, but more rapidly toward the west and north. Afterward it spread throughout California and Oregon, to Washington, Idaho, Nevada, Arizona and Mexico, and later it manifested itself in

and other places in the east. The pest is said to spread relentlessly and steadily over all deciduous fruit trees—trunks, ilmbs, foliage and fruit. It is only a question of two or three years before the death of the plant attacked is brought about, and the possibility of injury which, from experience with other scale enemies of deciduous plants, might be easily ignored or thought insignificant, is

Virginia, Maryland, Indiana, Pennsylvania

scon startlingly demonstrated. The general appearance which the scales present is of a grayish, very slightly roughened, scurfy deposit. The natural rich, red dish color of the young limbs of peach, pear and apple trees is quite obscured when these trees are thickly infested, and they have then every appearance of being coat ed with ashes. Fruit severely attacked be comes distorted, rough and pitted, frequent-ly cracking, and may eventually fall pre-maturely or at least become unmarketable. The scale is frequently carried about on fruit, there being cases on record where California pears and apples found on investigation to be infested with male and female scales, have been bought from fruit stalls in various parts of the country. The principal method of the spread of the young lice is by means of other insects and by

The Maguire Resolution.

Chairman Hitt of the House committee on foreign affairs expects to report favorably the Maguire resolution asking the State Department for information on the action of Germany concerning the exclusion of

Discussed at the Cabinet Meeting. The decree of the German government relative to American fruit was talked over at the cabinet meeting today, and figures were produced to show the great importance of the trade put in jeopardy by this sudden and unprecedented action on the part of Germany. The modification of the decree made known by the latest advices from Ambassador White was taken as an evidence that the matter is still subject

to diplematic adjustment.

Germany Might Be Right. Secretary Wilson explained to the cabinet that it is true that certain fruit diseases can be carried on the fruit, spreading infections to healthful orchards at a great distance. In times past, he said, certain states of the Union had prohibited infected fruit being taken into their borders from

nfected sections of other states.

The action of Germany, therefore, might be entirely proper and within the right. Investigation would have to be made to rtain this. Secretary Wilson said that in the last year the exports of fruit fro this country to Germany reached a total value of \$1,000,000, and our products are constantly growing in popularity.

TO BE FAVORABLY REPORTED.

Committee's Decision on the Eight Hour Bill. The House committee on labor has

cided to favorably report the eight-hour

bill. The provisions of the measure were published in The Star yesterday.

THE KLONDIKE WEATHER WHAT WILL SPAIN DO?

Personal Observations to Be Taken by a Washington Official.

Mr. U. G. Myers Leaves Today With the Yukon as Ultimate Destination-His Object.

Mr. U. G. Myers, an attache of the weather bureau, leaves Washington today for a brief visit to his home. His ultimate destination is the Klondike region, where he will go under the auspices of the chief of the weather bureau to take observations in the Yuken district, the Klondike region and most likely the Copper River ceality. Mr. Myers will form a party of four which will leave for Seattle in a few days. From there they will go to either Dyea or Skaguay, and go thence to the Klondike. The gentlemen who will accompany Mr. Myers are A. H. Dunham and A. G. Ward of New Haven, Conn., and Mr. H. C. Robinson of Los Angeles, Cal. Mr. Robinson will join the other three at Seat-

Mr. Myers is a young man, about thirty years of age, and unmarried. He has been connected with the weather bureau for about ten years. He has had much experience in the west, having at one time in the 90's been observer on Pike's Peak. He remained there until the station was discontinued in 1894. He has had other similar experiences in the west, and thinks they will stand him in good and thinks they will stand him in good stead for the proposed trip. He has excellent health and fine physique. He is confident that the party will get through

Mr. Myers' Primary Object. Speaking to a Star reporter today, he

"Of course there are a great many obstacles in our way of going direct to the Klondike, but we will go to Seattle, and just as soon as possible go to Skaguay. We may be able to reach the Klondike in March or April at the latest. The primary object of the trip will be mining for gold. From my connection with the weather bureau I thought that it would be a good idea to get a year's leave of absence and take voluntary observations at different stations at which I might be. The weather bureau particularly desires to have data concern-ing the high barometer in those regions, as

they are productive frequently of what are known as 'highs.'
"We wish to get all the facts possible concerning the origin and continuance of these. Of course records of temperature and other data will be taken. It will be troublesome however, to arrest the second of t

troublesome, however, to arrange for mak-ing wind observations.

"Our first destination will be the Klondike locality, as we will wish to find out all that is possible concerning the methods of that is possible concerning the methods of mining, living and other matters up in that country. We shall probably stay there some little time, and will most likely go to the Copper river region. We have entered into a contract to stick together, as, of course, this is a chief requisite for success in such a country. We have great hopes of being able to do some placer mining successfully. The others of the party will have nothing to do with my observations. have nothing to do with my observations.

Difficulty of the Passes. "There are a number of matters which have not been definitely arranged yet. We will probably experience considerable difficulty in getting over the passes, and have not yet decided how we will do this; whether by dog trains or in some other woy. The matter of clothing is the most important one to be considered, as there are two varieties of climate in that country-the dry

when flannels are needed principally, and the wet and moist in the spring, when rubbers and waterproofs must be used."

Mr. Myers stated that the cost of the
outfit, including clothing, tools and provisions to last a year, will be between \$350

It was thought at first, when he mentioned this sum, that it was that amount each, but he declared that it was for all four, and stated positively he was certain that this would be sufficient for all purposes. As he has been on expeditions o somewhat similar nature before, he said he knew what he was talking about in this regard. The outfit will probably be purchased in Seattle.

The instruments which he will take will

consist of six thermometers, such as are used in observations by the weather bu-reau, and two barometers. The whole package containing the instru-

ments, Mr. Myers says, will not take up a space more than two feet long by six inches wide. The thermometers will be placed in grooves made especially for them in boxes, these grooves being lined with flannel. They will fit tight, so there will be no chance of them moving down and becoming broken They will weigh but little, and will hardly affect the progress of the party. Mr. Myers says he will probably carry a rifle and a light shotgun. The latter will be used for killing grouse, of which there is generally a large number in the country. generally a large number in the country through which he is going, and which will add materially to their food supply.

The Expected Results.

It is believed the result of Mr. Myers' ob servations will be to greatly aid the weather bureau in their forecasting and general work. The farthest north any station is now located from which they receive reports, indirectly, is Edmonton, in the British possessions. It is not thought that the Canadian government will object in the least to the observations being taken, as they are not official in a certain sense, but only voluntary on Mr. Myers part. He will carry with him a letter from the chief of the weather bureau, explaining his mission and containing full creden-

RENAMING THE STREETS.

A Hearing Before Members of Joint Library Committee.

There was a hearing this afternoon be fore a subcommittee of the joint library committee on renaming the lettered streets of this city. Members of the subcommittee present were Senators Wetmore, chairman Stewart and McMillan and Representatives Shannon and Cowherd.

There were also present Judge Hagner, Judge Martin F. Miller, J. Ormond Wilson M. I. Weller, Mr. Spofford and J. Note McGill.

Judge Hagner, representing the Colum bia Historical Society, opened the hearing by explaining the bill outlining the plan for

renaming the lettered streets as approved by the Columbia Historical Society, and introduced in the Senate by Mr. McMillan, chairman of the Senate committee on the District of Columbia.

Judge Hagner spoke of the similarity of the sound of many of the letters of the alphabet, and spoke of the great confusion that is frequently caused by this fact. Eight of the letters of the alphabet, he said, were so similar that it is almost impossible to distinguish them over the telephone or as ordinarily pronounced.

as ordinarily pronounced.

Judge Hagner told a number of humorous stories to illustrate the difficulties that are caused by these similar names. He said the names of twenty presidents were given to these streets, while the alphabetical arrangement was not interfered with.

Applies for Retirement. Col. H. H. Higbee of the marine corps unding the marine barracks. Brook lyn, N. Y., has applied to the Secretary of the Navy for retirement, June 1 next, under the thirty years' service law. It is under-stood that he was about to be transferred to duty at Mare Island, Cal.

Blanco's Cuban Policy Has About Culminated in Disaster.

SUGGESTS NAPOLEON AND RUSSIA

The Commander's Health is Good, but His Army Moribund.

SIGNIFICANCE OF EXPLOSIONS

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.

HAVANA, February 2, via Port Tampa, Fla., February 3.-Blanco's health is good. The captain general comes back from the eastern provinces with that news. During the retreat from Moscow the people of France received word that their brothers were perishing by the thousands in the snows of Russia, but the bulletins always closed with the intelligence that the health of Napoleon was good.

The people of Spain receive a similar message today. In the province of Saniago the soldiers are perishing by the hundreds in the over-crowded hospitals and in the field. The insurgents have driven the troops back into the few ruins where the flag of Spain yet floats from the forts along the Cauto, where Gen. Pando for three months has been vainly trying to force a passage. The fevers are thinning he ranks infinitely faster than Calixto

The health of the Spanish soldiers in Cuba is very bad. The health of the remnant of the reconcentradoes is also bad, but Spain's viceroy, Captain General Blanco, is in good health. It may be that the statement of Blanco's satisfactory physical condition is meant to provide against a sea voyage for his health.

When the volunteers put Captain General Dulce on shipboard during the ten years' war the latter's health was bad. He was victim of nervous prostration. Gen. Parrado's Warning.

In Blanco's absence, Acting Captain General Parrado has again warned the officers of the volunteers that disloyalty will be sternly punished, and they have again protested their loyalty. It is not thought the intransigientes have in mind any purpose of forcibly ousting Blanco. They profess to be satisfied with his speech at Manzanino, in which he promised peace by the end of the present month. February is a short month, and they may well wait its closing days before making their demonstration. The moderate intransigientes believe in waiting for Madrid to act. They will put in the hands of the conservatives and the Weylerites in Spain the fullest details of the failure of Blanco's mission. Their de mand will be for the recall of the captain general, on the grounds that autonomy has failed to secure peace, when proffered with gold in one hand and the bayonet in the

other.

The disappointment of the Sagasta ministry must be keen. In spite of warnings Sagasta and Morut had apparently deluded the people of Spain into the belief that their policy was weakening the insurrection. They builded high hopes on Blanco's trip to the eastern provinces. In November it was Gomez who was to be brought. ber, it was Gomez who was to be brought; Extent of Rabi's Infinence.

If Jany Rabi was to be the means of undermining the revolution his defection would not have meant as much as the desertion of Gomez or Calixto Garcia, yet it would have been a real blow. His influence with the men who bear arms in the eastern provinces is great. Rabi is a native of the natives. It is said that the Indian blood in his veins is tinctured with no foreign mixture. It is as pure as that which flowed in the veins of his ancestor when Columbus first saw this, the most beautiful land that eyes ever beheld. Natural military genius has overcome the defect of ignorance and lack of training. He is unquestionably one of the ablest generals in the insurgent army. Spain has not gold enough to buy him. He spared the emissaries who first came to him, because they were coerced into coming; later ones who undertook the mission of bribery untarily he is believed to have hung. His answer to the final and desperate attempt of the Spanish authorities to win him was to drive the defeated troops under Gen-eral Luque back to Holguin. That answer eral Luque back to Holguin. That answer ought to satisfy the Sagasta ministry that the life of the insurrection cannot be sapped by the bribery of its chiefs. It satisfies the Spanish classes in Havana. They had been foolish enough to think there might be some prospect of tolling Rabi with money and promises of honors under the standard of Spain, but now they know better. They wonder what the next move better. They wonder what the next move will be, and they think the wisest thing would be for Premier Sagasta to ask an accounting of stewardship from Blanco. That, they say, would save trouble here. Meaning of the Bomb Explosions.

The bombs which are exploding in Havana occasionally are taken to mean disapproval of Blanco's policy. 'I ney are more likely to reflect individual dissatisfaction with the administration under autonomy. Sunday night at midnight the bomb which sunday night at midnight the bomb which was exploded at the house of Senor Alvarez, the former mayor, shook the whole city. Many of the inhabitants thought the guns of the Maine were belching an unfriendly salute. From the hotel balcony I watched the signs of excitement. They were marked. The authorities themselves were apprehensive. Civil Governor Bruzon, General Arolas, military governor of the province, and other officials were quick to reach the scene. A few nights previous. reach the scene. A few nights previous, when a small bomb had been exploded in the neighborhood, I had driven out there and received the assurance of the man in whose yard the bomb exploded that it must have been a mistake, because he had no eremies. The mistake must have been in the place. Song Always the former of nave been a mistake, because he had no eremies. The mistake must have been in the place. Senor Alvarez, the former alcalde, has some enemies. The troublesome reflection is that somebody in Havana is making dynamite bombs which when exploded are powerful enough to shake the whole city. If they should be used for a political demonstration it would prove uncomfortable. Captain General Blanco is a stole, and reflections of this kind may not disturb him, so far as the signs at the disturb him, so far as the signs at the palace may be received. The failure of his mission to the eastern provinces will work no change in the plans of the government. no change in the plans of the government. Fresh promises will be made to keep the deluded people of Spain pacified. Renewed efforts will be put forth to hold off the United States until the summer season, when yellow fever will be a stronger guard along the coasts of Cuba than a double fleet of warships or a defensive army of 300,000 Spanish soldiers.

. The News is Suppressed.

In the meantime I imagine the people of he United States may be concerning themselves with some things harpening down here, though, if they are, it would be as easy to learn it in the heart of Africa as in easy to learn it in the heart of Africa as in Havana. The censorship keeps the news out, yet they may be thinking of the massacre of the Sarsa family in the hills of Tapaste, when the fifteen hundred Spanish troops succeeded in surrrising and killing Aranguren. For the principals in this tragedy of the revolution the last office has been performed. The body of Col. Josquin Rulz was dug up from under the mango trees where the insurgents had buried it, brought to Havana and interred in the Columbus cemetery. Notwithstanding the Strict watch kept, the grave of Aranguren was found covered with flowers. The same

tribute may be paid without stealth to the memory of Ruis; for, like Aranguren, he was so popular and so many friends mourn his fate. I do not know whether anybody has placed flowers on the graves of the Sarsa women and children. The official accounts admit their deaths, and it is presumed graves were found for them. I have heard that an error was made in the original account, and that it was another of the children who was killed instead of the sister. There were four children, and only two are said to survive. The sister, who was reported to have been killed, was only hadly wounded, and two days ago was said to be yet alive, though with no chance of recovery. But that three members of the family which had the risfortune to shelter Aranguren are dead is admitted.

Proud of the Executioners. Col. Aranzasbee, Lieut. Col. Benedicto and other officers are not exactly popular here, but the army is proud of them. They dine at the hotel with their huge pistols dangling from their belts. Perhaps there is a trifle of affectation in it. I have seen is a trine of affectation in ft. I have seen something of the kind in Arizona and on the frontier. Col. Aranzasbee is said to be confident of receiving the decoration of Maria Crystana, which is supposed to be conferred for specially gallant and meritarious service. The celebrated Reina battallion continues to be the envy of other battallions which had no chance to take part in the affair. part in the affair.

part in the affair.

No one supposes that Captain General Blanco will affront the army by rebuking the officers who have conspicuously violated his general order about conducting the war on humane principles. He would not dare do it. The army itself does not understand why a fuss could be made. It happened that the prominence of Aranguren gave prominence to the circumstances surrounding his death. The event was near enough to Havana for the facts regarding the killing of the women and children to be learned and verified before they could be covered up by official demands. In no other way do the circumstances differ from similar atrocities. They are as bad as the killing of the inmates of are as bad as the killing of the inmates of the Cuban hospitals, which has been done since Blanco took command, and which was done under Weyler. The Spanish army in Cuba does not change its nature with a change of commander. PEPPER.

Cost of the Cuban War.

A dispatch from Madrid says: The cost of the Cuban war from February, 1895, to the end of 1897 is officially estimated at \$240,000,000, besides the arrears due from the Cuban treasury, amounting to \$40,000,000.

The Imparcial complains that the com-mercial negotiations between Spain, Cuba and the United States are being intrusted to Senor de Lome, the Spanish minister at Washington, and urgs the government to appoint experts to examine the terms of the treaty on Spain's behalf.

THREE PROMISENT MEN GONE.

W. A. M. Vaughan, Louis Wampold and A. P. Wilder. KANSAS CITY, Mo., February 4.-Will-

iam A. M. Vaughan, a pioneer, is dead at his home here. Mr. Vaughan was born at Spottsylvania Court House, Va., in 1829, and came west when seventeen years of He traded with the Indians, took an

active part in the border wars and served through the confederacy under Gen. Price and Gen. Joe Shelby, retuing a captain. He helped organize the Kansas City board of trade, helped build the city's first grain elevator and was prominent in the

Louis Wampold Passes Away. CHICAGO, February 4.-Louis Wampeld, well-known wholesale clothier and one the wealthiest men in the city, is dead of pneumonia. He had been ill several months. Mr. Wampold was noted as a giver to charity and has been interested in the ounding of many charitable organizations

A. P. Wilder at Topeka, Kan. TOPEKA, Kan., February 4.-A. P. Wilder, a prominent railroad man and superintendent of the Missouri and Kansas Car Association, is dead in this city from Bright's disease, aged sixty-six years. was for many years car accountant of the

DIAZ IS NOT COMING.

Rumored Visit of Mexico's President

is Officially Denied. CITY OF MEXICO, Mex., February 4. There is no foundation for the report of contemplated early visit by President Diaz to the United States. This denial is made by his authority. He has a very warm United States and stant interest in its affairs, but no present ntention of going there.

TO AID THE POOR. Scheme of Seventh Day Adventists in

Kansas City. KANSAS CITY, Mo., February 4 .- An experimental mission where the poor are to be served meals at a penny a dish and a bed for five cents, with a bath thrown in has started here under the direction of the Church of the Seventh Day Adventists. One hundred and fifty cots have beer placed in a large room in a building on the second floor. In the basement bathtubs and showers have been provided, together with a room for fumigating clothes and a

The meal consists entirely of vegetables meat being barred because of its expension and the work of cooking it, and because the management are believers in vegeta-

KILLED HIS WIFE WITH AN AX. Insane Act of Jone Lopes, a Mexical

Cattleman. BENSON, Ariz., February 4.-Jose Lopes, Mexican cattleman, murdered his wife at the little settlement of Reddington, north of this point on the San Pedro river cutting open her head with an ax and almost dismembering the body in his msane frenzy.

Lopez had been for some days showing signs of mental derangement and had been left in charge of two friends, pending ar examination for issanity. He eluded his watchers, and gaining possession of an ax started to run amuch through the village. A Mexican family barely escaped him, and he chased his guards out of the settlement. When he returned to his home his wife tried to quiet him, but he turned upon her and killed her. Lopes finally was captured and will be sent to the territorial asylum.

ONLY THE HEALTHY CAN MARRY.

Bill Introduced in Ohio Legislature Regulating the Matter. COLUMBUS, Ohio, February 4.-Repre sentative Parker of Cleveland has introluced a bill which entirely changes the

nanner of regulating marriages. It provides for the appointment by the probate court of each county of a board of probate court of each county of a board of marriages composed of physicians, to whom persons who will to marry must make aplication. The heard will refuse to grant a license in case other barry to the proposed contract has her dissomania, kleptomania, insanity, true or hereditary or resulting from vice, certain blood diseases or tuber-culosis. It will charge \$2.50 for each license, and out of the fund so made each member of the board will be paid a salary of \$1.000.

A HALT IS IN ORDER General Sentiment Aroused Against

IN CONGRESS AND THE COURTS

the Telephone Company.

High Charges and a Policy of Dictation.

A FEW FACTS OF INTEREST

The business men of Washington who are compelled to use telephones in the transaction of their daily affairs are watching with intense interest the result of the questions affecting the policy of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company which are now pending in Congress and in the United States court of the District of Columbia.

Among these users of the telephone there s hope expressed also that Congress will adopt the amendment to the District appropriation bill providing a new scale of prices to be charged for the uses of the telephone in the District, and that in the case of the proprietor of the Fredonia Hotel the courts may decide that the telephone company has no right to dictate what character of messages in a business sense shall be sent over telephones that are rented at specific sums annually.

Business Injured.

The installation of public pay telephones in drug stores, hotels and other public places had the effect of seriously injuring trade among the business men of Washington because the majority of them had put telephones in their own establishments more for the purpose of receiving orders from customers living throughout the city than for the sending of messages relating to their own particular business. Under the old system it was only necessary for per-sons living in the vicinity of a store which had a telephone to go there and order goods not obtainable in their immediate relighborhood from down town merchants. These persons would have made no objection probably to paying moderate charges for the privilege of sending such messages in the manner indicated, but in nearly all of the public telephones it is necessary to the such messages in the manner indicated, but in nearly all of the public telephones it is necessary to be a such as the second or the such as the put a ten-cent piece in the slot in order to send such a message.

Mr. Bryan's Timely Illustration.

It will be seen by this, say the merchants, that it requires the expenditure for the privilege of talking over half a mile of wire, for instance, of two and a half times as much as it does to ride nine miles times as much as it does to ride nine miles on a street railway, whose construction is more costly and more expensive to operate than the telephone company's equipment. President Samuel M. Bryan of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company has claimed, too, they say, that a telephone call costs the company about the same as the average cost to a street railroad of carrying a passenger. Instead of charging four and one-sixth cents for the telephone privilege, however, which is the rate charged on local street railways, ten cents is charged generally. Business men, who applicant the action brought by the proprieplaud the action brought by the proprie-iers of the Fredonia, have been getting more and more incensed at the telephone the new system of schedules went into effect, because the telephone company insists that it shall be the sole judge of the character of the business transacted by the

The Public Telephone.

The drug stores now having public telehones were until recently allowed to transact their own business over the public phones without charge to them. Most of these drug stores were agencies for laundries, express companies and similar con-veniences, the customers of which called

veniences, the customers of which called up by telephone.

The agency for such concerns was part and parcel of the business of the drug store, as the proprietor received a percentage on the orders sent, just as he made a profit on the drugs sold on orders re-ceived over the telephone. The telephone company, however, announced that it was the sole judge of the real business of a telephone renter and that all such messages must be paid for and also decided that a proprietor of a drug store or other place having a telephone could not call up a customer for any personal purpose. The company engaged in pursuance of what it claimed was the intention to prevent the common gratuitous use of the telephone has gone in the opinion of more than nine-tenths of the leading men of Washington in the opposite direc tion and is now indulging, in imposition is own part, and the opinion prevails is very strong that it should be called on its own part, and the to a halt both in the amount of its charges and in the dictatorial feature of its present

IMPORTANT LAND DECISIONS. Two Affecting the Claims of Arch-

bishop Ireland. Land Commissioner Hermann today rer dered two important decisions involving the rights of a number of settiers who had purchased land in Minnesota from Archbishop Ireland.

This matter attracted considerable attention, and for some time has engrossed the attention of the land office.

While one decision is against Archbisho Ireland and the other is in his favor, the settlers are in each case amply protected. In fact, no matter how the decision went

In fact, no matter how the decision went, they were protected.

Archbishop Ireland was the agent of the Catholic Colonization Society, and sought to obtain title to certain lands along the line of the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railroad Company. According to the records in one instance the archbishop agreed with the railroad company to settle the lands, the railroad to make the sales at \$4 per acre and the archbishop to retle the lands, the railroad to make the sales at \$4 per acre and the archbishop to receive a commission of 10 per cent. In this case Commissioner Hermann has decided that Archbishop Ireland was merely the agent of the railroad, and denies his claim to a deed for the land.

In the other case Archbishop Ireland was the recognized agent of the settlers and the testimony establishes that beyond a doubt.

It was developed that the railroad com

It was developed that the railroad company had no vested right in the land and consequently had rothing to sell. Under the act of March 3, 1897, Congress passed a bill providing for the adjustment of railroad grants and gave the right to actual bona fide purchasers to obtain title to

The department had only the question therefore to decide of the settlers who had purchased in good faith. As stated above, in either decision the settler would not have suffered.

Secretary Alger May Go Away Next cretary Alger is reported to be stee

STEADILY IMPROVING.

Secretary Alger is reported to be steadily improving, and it is hoped that he will be strong enough early next week to be removed to Fort Monroe for rest and recuperation. He will be accompanied to that resort by Mrs. Alger, and it is probable the trip from this city may be made on a light house tender. As an indication of the Secretary's improvement it is stated that he signed today the commissions of about seventy officers of the army, recently promoted.

HURTS CHICAGO FRUIT MEN Decree of German Covernment Regarding American Apples.

Dealers Deride the Reason Assigned. as Only Choicest Fruit Was Shipped Abroad.

CHICAGO, February 4.-Wholesale fruit lealers of Chicago declare that the decree issued by the German authorities closing the gates against the fresh fruit of this country will be a source of considerable hardship to them. The apple dealers, it is said, will be the

chief sufferers, for the German trade in apples has had considerable to do with regulating the home market. Late last autumn representatives from a

number of prominent apple nouses in Bremen and Hamburg came to this country and urged the dealers to supply the German demands with the popular fruit. Some of them went so far as to offer a guaranty, claiming to see their way clear through the great demand in the father-iand for fine fruit, which has been scarce, in Germany this year.

Merchants say the alleged cause for the issuance of the decree is ridiculous, for only the choicest varieties of apples were ablipped across the water. They deny that

issuance of the decree is ridiculous, for only the choicest varieties of apples were shipped across the water. They deny that any California vermin infested the fruit. Benjamin Newhall, one of the heaviest handlers of apples in the west, said: "It the German government closed its ports against apples from this country merely as a precautionary measure against vermin, it did it in pretty much of a hurry. It is all bosh to say that the California apples are infested with vermin. The Germans get the pick of the land. The American merchants had begun to regard the German field as an especially profitable one for them to operate in, and they set about to supply the market. Well, of course, the suddenness of the decree simply knocks their plans and preparations squarely in the head and leaves them to get rid of their surplus stock the best way they can. I think I am pretty near it when I say that not less than 75,000 barrels of apples were snipped to the German markets last season."

MERICAN STRAWBOARD COMPANY. Changes in the List of Officers at Annual Election.

CHICAGO, February 4.-Radical changes were made in the management of the American Strawboard Company yesterday n the election of the following officers and directors: President, R. F. Newcomb; vice president, M. R. Williams; secretary and treasurer, E. M. Watkins; executive committee, R. F. Newcomb, chairman; Crawford Fairbanks and L. A. Wiley; directors, R. F. Newcomb, W. P. Orr, Crawford Fairbanks, George L. Webb, C. H. Castle, J. A. Spoor, L. A. Wiley and M. R. Williams.

LAUGHS AND GROWS POOR.

Curious Medical Case at Louisville Reverses the Old Adage.

pecial Dispatch to The Evening Star. LOUISVILLE, Ky., February 4.-The mos emarkable case ever reported by the phycians of Kentucky is one at Lancaster Aunt Nannie Mays, an old colored woman. laughs from morning till night, and unless stopped by a narcotic from night till morn. The only thing that stops her is chlo form. She laughed till she has b emaciated and almost lifeless, yet she still breaks into the same seemingly hearty laugh with every other breath. She has been laughing three weeks and says she is utterly powerless to stop it. Medical men from several cities are going today to see the old woman and try to give her perma-

BELMONT DEFENDS MURPHY.

says President McKinley Voted for s Similar Measure.

ALBANY, N. Y., February 4.-Ex-Con gressman Perry Belmont has sent to the democratic leaders of the assembly a long letter of suggestions as to the course to e pursued in defending United States Senator Edward Murphy, jr., from the attacks nade upon him in the legislature for voting for the Teller resolution.

Mr. Belmont, who was a "gold" democrat during the 1896 campaign, calls attention to the vote of President McKinley in Congress in 1877 on the Matthews silve resolution, which, he says, was exactly the same as the Teller resolution. He does not, therefore, see how a republican legislature can censure a democratic United States senator for doing that for which its own representative at the head of the ration had set a precedent.

JAPAN WAITING ON GERMANY. Fleet Getting Ready to Proceed to

YOKOHAMA, February 4.-The Japanese feet is maneuvering prior to a cruise in Chinese waters.

The press is silent on the situation in China, and it is believed the premier, the Marquis Ito, is awaiting the settlement of the German claims before committing Japan to any policy.

The Russian squadron is without smokeess coal and the supply here is small.

GROUND UNDER THE WHEELS. Ghastly Evidence That a Stolen Ride Cost a Life,

NEW YORK, February 4.-Between the oumpers of the express cars of the St. Louis capress when it reached Jersey City today was found a man's foot. Search for traces of the person to whom the foot had belonged brought to light a portion of a coat in one of the trucks of the mail car. In the pocket of this garment was a card bearing the words: "Albert Barber, Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association. A. M. Trimmer, agent, Harrisburg, Pa." It is believed that a man fell from the train, and was ground to pieces beneath wheels.

Preacher an Embessler. Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.

GAINESVILLE, Ala., February 4 .- Rev. F. L. Robertson, a prominent Baptist preacher, has been indicted for embessieent committed while county tax collector three years ago. The authorities were loath to proceed against him and the case has dragged along. He is accused of mis-placing \$8,401. He will be tried before Judge Kinsey, who is a fellow-Baptist

Eli Mansfield Bruce Dead. PHILADELPHIA, February 4. - Eli Mansfield Bruce of the piano and organ firm of Estey & Bruce died last night uddenly at his home, in this city, in his eventy-fourth year. He was a member the "Merchants' Regiment" of emer-ency men raised at the time of the in-asion of Pennsylvania by Lee. He was rominent in church and charitable work.

NEW YORK, February 4.—The big rmored cruiser Brooklyn left the navy yard about 8 o'clock this morning on her way to see to begin her cruise of the West Indies. She first goes to Newport News for a supply of coal.

BIG ARMY FOR CUBA

It is Now Being Recruited by a Minneapolis Man.

ITS MISSION IS ONE OF PEACE

Will Settle on Lands Owned by American Citizens.

BUT WILL DEFEND RIGHTS

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., February 4 .- A. special to the Journal from Aberdeen, S. D., says Jim Patterson of Minneapolis, who is well known throughout the northwest, has been in Aberdeen on a peculiar mission. He is working quietly but persistently upon a scheme to take 100,000 men to Cuba and land them there on July 4 next.

He says he is backed by a syndicate of Americans, who have large land interests in the islands, and claims these Americans are anxious to cut up their large holdings and dispose of small plantations to ablebodied men on long time and at a low rate of interest. They require no cash down, and all the money the intended purchasers need is enough to pay their expenses from here to Cuba.

On account of the large number of peo On account of the large number of peo-ple whom they intend to transport the traveling expenses will be nominal. Mr. Patterson says excursion rates have al-ready been arranged for, and that there will be enough steamers at New Orleans on July 3 to carry the 100,000 excursionists to Havana and other ports on the island where they intend to land.

Protection Guaranteed.

The company guarantees protection from Spanish interference from New Orleans to Cuba and when the men arrive they will be such a formidable body that Spain will not dare to interfere in the peaceful pursuits the immigrants intend to follow. If an attempt should be made to interfere the men will be instructed to arm them-selves and protect their rights. The company's agent claims that a vast

amount of money has been lost by Ameri-can property owners over there b-causa the Spaniards would not allow them to work their plantations. They intend to place a man on every few acres, and if he stands up for his rights and works the property as it can be worked he will become the absolute owner of his plantation in a few years. The company guarantees to furnish the settlers with machinery and arm them if it becomes necessary through Spanish intervention.

Has Met With Success

Mr. Patterson says he has been very successful in securing men from the two Dakotas, Montana and Minnesota, who are only too willing to accept the company's flattering inducement, and claims the gigantic excursion is already an assured suc-

ar. Patterson says he will be at the Bos-ton block in Minneapolis over Sunday, but intends to leave for eastern points Sunday, night to presecute his labors in securing volunteers for the big land seekers' excurful pursuits the world has ever known.

ANOTHER WARSHIP IN CUBA'S PORTS Arrival of the Cruiser Montgomery at Matenzas.

The Navy Department has received a telegram from Captain Converse of the cruise? Montgomery, announcing the arrival of that vessel at Matanzas, Cuba, yesterday. The captain said that he fired a salute. which was duly responded to by the Spanish forts; that visits were exchanged between himself and the local officials, and that he had been received with the greatest courtesy. Everything was unusually quiet at Matanzas, added Captain Converse, He will leave in the Montgomery tomorrow for Santiago, on the south side of the is-

land, and his stay there will be brief. The armored cruiser Brooklyn, which is bound for a cruise in the Windward Isbound for a cruise in the Windward Islands, and thence through the Caribbean sea, winding up at Colon, sailed today from the New York navy yard for Hamptou Roads for coal. She will make her next stop after leaving Hampton Roads at St. Thomas, and her litnerary does not carry her into any Cuban port. The training ship Annapolis has arrived at St. Croix, and the gunboat Wilmington has sailed from Trinis gunboat Wilmington has sailed from Trinte

It is said at the Navy Department that the vessels of the European squadron will rendezvous at Lisbon in a short time. When Commodore Howell passed through Washington recently on his way to take command of the European station, he asked if the Navy Department objected to his making a northern cruise with his squadron. He was told that the ships had been kept in the Mediterranean by Admiral Sels fridge of his own volition, after the succeeding from dence of the disturbances resulting from the Turco-Grecian war, and that the determinant left the movements of his ships the Turco-Grecian war, and that the department left the movements of his ships entirely to himself. He was therefore granted the permission he sought, and he has announced that he will bring his force together at Lisbon. A cablegram from him announces that he relieved Admiral Selfridge and took command of the European station at Genoa on the 2d instant, and it is expected that he will take his flagship, the San Francisco, and the gunboat Bancroft around to Lisbon very soon. The gunboat Helena is already there,

ARMY AND NAVY.

Orders, Transfers, Movements of Shipe Commander F. V. McNair has been ordered to duty in this city as president of the naval examining and retiring boards relieving Commodore C. S. Norton of such

duty. Assistant Surgeon G. C. Hubbard has been ordered home and granted three

nonths' sick leave. Ensign C. England, from the Adams to the Mohican. Ensign C. J. Long, from the Mohican to the Adams; Ensign S. P. Ful-linwider, from the Adams to the Mohican.

linwider, from the Adams to the Mohican,
Lieut. Col. James Jackson has been destailed to duty at the Bishop Scott Acade
my, Portland, Oregon.
Lieut. A. P. Buffington, 13th Infantry, has
been ordered to duty at the University of
the State of Missouri, at Columbia, Mo.,
vice Lieut. W. A. Thurston, 16th Infantry,
who will join his regiment.
The leave of absence granted Lieut N.
K. Averill, 7th Cavalry, has been extended
one month.

one month.

The gunboat Annapolis arrived at St. Croix yesterday. The terpedo boat Ericason has sailed from Mobile for Key West. The cruiser Alert has arrived at San Juandel Sur. The gunboat Wilmington left Trinidad yesterday for Granada.

Lieut. F. B. McKenna, 15th Infantry, is at 2127 California evenue, on leave of absence.

sence.

Commander W. F. Heald of the Nava
Academy was in the city today on busines
with the Navy Department.

The following residents of the District of Columbia have been granted pensions: Harr ry O. Nash, 330; Clay Pointer, United States Soldiers' Home, 38; John W. Weis, 36.